



\$5,000,000 IN WAR STUFFS FOR ALLIES AND 43 SHIPS BURNED; PLOT SUSPECTED

Brooklyn Fire Sweeps British Craft, Wrecking Tons of Cotton, Oil and Explosives

Two Lives Probably Lost in Spectacular Blaze That Leaps to Docks and Endangers Whole Water Front. Federal Inquiry Is Ordered

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—Two big British steamships, laden with munitions and war supplies for the Allies; 40 lighters and their cargoes of oil, cotton and shells, were destroyed early today by a fire which is believed to have resulted from a bomb plot.

The total loss is estimated at \$5,000,000. A third British munitions ship, the Belgio, was badly damaged, but the fire on this freighter was extinguished after it had raged for five hours.

The steamships Bolton Castle and Pacific, owned by the Castle Line, were swept and wrecked by the flames. Thousands of tons of war munitions stored in pier No. 36 were burned. The fire followed an explosion, and fed by cotton and oil, spread so rapidly that the firemen were unable to check its progress.

Two seamen are missing.

TWO SERIOUSLY INJURED.

Captain B. V. Smith, of the Pacific, and Mrs. Smith were injured so badly they probably will die. A column of 300 naked seamen, who leaped from the ships into the water, were picked up by tugs and fireboats.

The fire, which was the biggest yet at the pier, was the most spectacular on the Brooklyn water front. The firemen on the fireboats risked their lives amid the flames and shells, and in vain tried to fight the conflagration. As the flames reached the shells there were explosions which sent clouds of smoke high above the roaring flames.

Mrs. Smith, wife of the master of the Pacific, fell into the ice-cooled water, and her husband, although suffering a dislocated arm, leaped after her.

The three freighters, the smallest of which was 320 tons burden, were tied to the pier, when an explosion occurred shortly before 2 o'clock.

FLAMES SPREAD RAPIDLY.

Instantly the pier was enveloped in flames, while automatic fire alarms began sounding in half a dozen fire stations. Both land firemen and fire boats responded as quickly as possible, but before they reached the scene the pier was a mass of flames and the fire was crawling over the Pacific and Bolton Castle. A column of fire more than 100 feet high lighted up the water and shore.

Within a few minutes after the outbreak there was a series of small detonations and these continued until after the fire was under control.

The Belgio, which was nearest the open channel, had just caught fire when the explosion occurred. A column of smoke and black smoke billowed from the ship and began towing her toward the Status of Liberty while the seamen on board fought desperately to extinguish the flames.

Meanwhile three other tugs and a dozen fireboats were engaged in rescuing women and children from the burning lighters.

Police reserves, called from four stations, took charge of the rescued, most of whom were in their night clothing.

The Bolton Castle arrived from Manila several days ago and had finished unloading its cargo yesterday. A line of 43 ships, crew of 58, of whom 46 were Chinese and 12 Englishmen. The Chinese seamen became panicky and jumped overboard with screams of fright. The explosions grew more and more violent.

Deputy Fire Chief Lally, who arrived

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COLD GONE, MERCURY RISING

Fair Weather Follows Higher Temperature; the Forecast

The two-day cold wave has bid adieu to the city and nation, and the country today is literally "dry."

Warmer at sunrise than it was at sunset yesterday, today, the first time in 48 hours, saw a rise in temperature above freezing. It was 30 degrees at 8 o'clock this morning, 24 degrees warmer than at the same time yesterday. Since noon the mercury was well on its way above the frigid mark. Snow and ice which have gripped the city began to melt.

There has been no precipitation in the last 24 hours in the country, except a trace of rain at Binghamton, N. Y., and a trace of snow in the extreme northwestern corner of Washington State. This is regarded as remarkable in view of the moderating weather that prevails in the sections.

The forecast is fair tonight and tomorrow, slightly warmer tonight, with gentle winds, mostly southwest. The forecast temperature tonight, it is said, will be about 32 degrees.

Split Rail Caused B. and O. Wreck

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16.—A report made public today by H. W. Belmont, chief of the division of safety of the Interstate Commerce Commission, states that an investigation of Washington State, occurred on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at Eighty-four, Pa., near Washington, on April 30 last, shows the accident was due to a split rail, which separated, thus opening the track. One person was killed and four injured in the derailment of a double-header freight train.

THE WEATHER

FORECAST

For Philadelphia and vicinity—Fair tonight and Thursday; slightly warmer tonight, with lowest temperature about 32 degrees; gentle winds mostly southeast.

For details see page 17.

LOST AND FOUND

A light Pomeranian dog, in Merion, Saturday afternoon. The dog is white with black spots. If you find him, please return to Mrs. W. J. G. at 1234 Locust St. Merion, Pa. Reward \$5.00.

A pair of Patent Leather, Saturday night. Found in the street near 12th and Locust. If you find them, please return to 1234 Locust St. Merion, Pa. Reward \$5.00.

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MYSTERIOUS MAID IN WHITE MASK



This young woman, who calls herself Mrs. Dorothy Kensington, widow of a British lieutenant, killed at Ypres, Belgium, is at a hotel in this city after vainly attempting to obtain rooms in two other hotels. She is accompanied by her brother, who calls himself Forbes Kensington. She wears the mask, she explains, because she does not wish her identity known in social circles in this country.

Facts About \$5,000,000 Fire on Allies' Steamships

Total loss in ships, war munitions and docks estimated at \$5,000,000.

Two British steamships and their cargoes completely wrecked. A third considerably damaged.

Forty lighters, with cargoes of oil, cotton and shells burned.

Two lives probably lost, one a woman, wife of a ship's captain.

Two seamen missing and probably lost after leaping from their ships.

Pier 36, with a vast amount of freight for the Allies, destroyed.

Daring deeds of shore and water firemen, who went among burning vessels, laden with high explosives, with shells bursting on every side.

Federal investigation of alleged anti-Allies plot ordered.

FLAMES SWEEP FALL RIVER FOR \$2,000,000 LOSS

Sixteen Buildings in Business Centre of Town Are Razed

ONE BELIEVED KILLED

FALL RIVER, Mass., Feb. 16.—After an all-night fight against a \$2,000,000 fire, which swept the business district of this city, destroying about one-third of it, the combined fire-fighting apparatus of New Bedford, Taunton and Newport checked the flames early today.

Starting from an explosion in the basement of the Steiger department store, at Spring and South Main streets, the flames took every building, 16 in number, in the square, including the Lenox Hotel, and just missed the City Hall and St. Mary's Cathedral.

The principal buildings destroyed include the Edwards, Flint, Campbell, Steiger, Lenox, and the homes of many large business firms including Cobb, Bales and Ferris.

Michael O'Rourke, watchman in the Steiger Building, said he heard a dull roar, when he was on the top floor. It seemed to come from the basement. Running down the stairs he was met by a rush of flames and as the telephone connections were burned away he was forced to dash into the street to give the alarm.

This delay gave the fire such a start that the building was a furnace by the time the firemen arrived. Snow-covered roofs and good pressure was all that saved the city from an even greater conflagration.

A gust of the wind early today turned the flames toward the congested tenement district, where a large mill population lives, but they were checked before reaching the houses.

At 2:30 o'clock this morning the fire was reported under control. It was said a fireman named Sawyer had been electrocuted, but early today the police had been unable to confirm the report.

One hundred guests at the Lenox Hotel, a four-story brick building, which was swept away by the flames, were forced to flee into the snow filled streets in their night clothes.

WOMAN OF THE MASK, OF SVELTE FORM, GIVES CHESTNUT ST. A THRILL

Who Is She? and Echo Answers, Who? Widowed by War and Wishes to Conceal Identity From Friends

ANYTHING FOR A JOB!

"The woman of the white mask"; who is she?

She has been in three different hotels in the last 24 hours and today, when she ventured out on Chestnut street, business paused and traffic stood still.

But the story behind the mask has been brought to light. It begins in the Atlantic, extends to the big cities, here—and the end is yet to come.

Robert Louis Stevenson or Honoré Balzac could not in their widest flights of fancy pen a more picturesque romance than that which has been lived by "Dorothy Kensington," she of the white mask. The name, she admits, is assumed.

It is very possible from the contour of her face and the luxuriance of her golden hair that the mask conceals blue or violet eyes. Her figure is what the novelists call "svelte" and her well-modulated voice helps to bear out the story that she belongs to exclusive social circles.

Accompanied by her brother, "Forbes Kensington," she came here yesterday. She said her chief object was to remain in seclusion. But unfortunately they selected a section of the city ill-suited for such a purpose.

When the masked visitor sought admittance to the Bellevue-Stratford and the Hotel Adelphi, the white mask made the clerk pause awkwardly at each place. There was a quick consultation and finally brother and sister were whisked off to the Adelphi Hotel.

The bustling in quickly among numerous guests and while Mr. Kensington was placing their names on the register with the word London after each, she of the white mask was nonchalantly gazing around, with her back to the clerk.

They darted into an elevator and arrived safely in suite 1904-1905, mask and all. To be sure, the elevator boy and a few bellhops gave them "the once over," but quickly forgot all about it and no inquiries were made.

When a visitor called, both the lady of the white mask and her brother were

BRITISH ATTACK POSITIONS LOST SOUTH OF YPRES

Desperate Battle Still Rages for Possession of Lines Near Hooge

NEW TROOPS UNDER FIRE

BERLIN, Feb. 16.—Attempts by the English and French forces to recapture positions taken by the Germans have all been repulsed, the German War Office announced today. The following official statement was issued:

"English troops yesterday made three attempts southeast of Ypres in an attempt to recapture the position we took from them. All were repulsed. We took 100 English prisoners.

"In Champagne the French repeated their attempt to regain positions northwest of Tahure. They met with the same failure as on previous days.

LONDON, Feb. 16.—Determined to regain the trenches which the Germans captured southeast of Ypres, British troops are making strong counter-attacks with indications of complete success, according to reports received today.

A vigorous artillery duel has been in progress over the greater part of the Ypres front, with the German guns keeping up a steady stream of shells into the ruined city of Ypres.

The German attacks indicated that the Teutons are again engaged in a desperate

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ROOT'S ATTACK ON WILSON HIS CRY OF BATTLE

Speech to Republicans Makes Foreign Policies Keynote of Campaign

TARIFF GETS RAP, TOO

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—The battle-cry of the conservative wing of the Republican party for the coming campaign has been sounded.

It was accepted in political circles today that the speech of Elihu Root last night before the New York State convention, in which he bitterly attacked the Wilson Administration's foreign policy, the Democratic tariff and denounced the Administration as generally incompetent will serve as a tentative platform upon which the Root followers will go before the people in the coming campaign.

Dealing with the Lusitania negotiations, Mr. Root declared: "No man can draw a pistol who dares not shoot. The Government that shakes its fist and its finger afterward falls into contempt."

This quotation, Mr. Root's friends said, may be expected to be one of the most prominent that will be used in the coming fight.

The former Senator declared the Administration to be "blindly stumbling along the road that, continued, will lead to inevitable war."

Mr. Root pledged the Republican party, if returned to power, to a foreign policy "frank and fearless and honest" and leaving no doubt anywhere of America's purpose to protect her independence, her territory and the lives and just rights of her citizens under the law of nations.

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AZIONI D'ARTIGLIERIA DAL VODIL AL CARSO

Opere di Fortificazione Campale del Nemico Distrutte dal Fuoco delle Batterie Italiane

Il rapporto del generale Cadorna pubblicato a Roma questa mattina annuncia che l'azione di artiglieria sulla fronte dell'Isone continua e va intensificandosi in alcuni settori. Specialmente violenta essa e' stata da parte delle batterie (italiane) nella zona montuosa a nord di Tolmino, dove tratti di opere di trinceramento austriache sono stati distrutti, e sul Carso, dove altre trincee nemiche sono state rovinata e le truppe che le occupavano sono state costrette ad abbandonare.

All'intorno di questa attivita' di artiglieria nell'altre annuncia il rapporto del generale Cadorna, ad eccezione delle imprese degli aeroplani austriaci in Val d'Adige e sul Tagliamento.

I velivoli austriaci hanno anche attaccato ieri mattina la citta' di Rimini. I serbi hanno avuto il tempo di farvi serri danni, essendo stati attaccati e messi in fuga dalle batterie speciali distribuite che ora evidentemente vengono distribuite lungo tutta la costa adriatica. Due persone sono rimaste ferite a Rimini.

(L'aggiornare in la pagina le ultime e piu' dettagliate notizie sulla guerra, in italiano.)

Fresh Air Saves Girl From Gas

Opening of her bedroom windows to have fresh air while she slept saved the life of Edna Mae Smith, 624 Mark St. street. When she went to bed last night she left the gas turned on by mistake, and but for the open windows, the police say, she would have been asphyxiated.

She was revived with a pulmonary at the Presbyterian Hospital.

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LOSS OF GAME BRINGS ACTION ON STADIUM

Ask Quick Approval of Plans for \$750,000 Arena for Army-Navy Contest

WOULD SEAT 100,000

Business Men and Penn Officials Favor Project to Get Big Meets

Great Stadium Plan as Outlined Today

Movement for erection of largest stadium in the world launched today by Chamber of Commerce and officials of University of Pennsylvania.

Will have seating capacity of 100,000; stadium group will also include educational building, Greek theatre, dormitories and union station.

Proposed to locate group on property owned by the city and Woodlands Cemetery, adjacent to Botanical Gardens of University.

Plans for financing project await approval of trustees of University. Several have already endorsed them.

Loss of Army and Navy game to Philadelphia brought stadium movement to head today.

If stadium project is successful, it is proposed to make a bid for Olympic games and other great athletic events for Philadelphia.

Announcement of the loss of the Army and Navy football game to Philadelphia today brought to a head a movement for the erection of a \$750,000 stadium with a seating capacity of 100,000 persons in Woodland ravine, which adjoins the Botanical Gardens of the University of Pennsylvania and is part of the Woodlands Cemetery.

In addition to the stadium, the plans include construction of a Greek theatre, an educational building and a union station, where attendants at football games and other big events could be brought directly to the grounds.

The stadium plans were prepared by George E. Nitzsche, recorder of the University of Pennsylvania, and they have been endorsed by the Municipal Affairs and Conventions Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, of which Harry B. French is chairman.

S. R. Clark, secretary of the committee, announced today that the Chamber of Commerce is only awaiting the approval of the trustees of the University of the plans before it proceeds in the matter of obtaining financial support for the project.

The Municipal Affairs and Conventions Committee has prepared a statement of approval, which the trustees of the University will be asked to sign within 24 hours, so that the stadium project may be launched while public interest is centered upon the loss of the Army and Navy game to Philadelphia.

The statement which the trustees of the University will be asked to sign follows:

"We, the undersigned trustees and Alumni of the University of Pennsylvania and other citizens of Philadelphia, recognizing the need and the advantages of a big stadium, hereby express our approval of the effort now being made to realize the construction of such a stadium on property adjacent to the University of the University of Pennsylvania, in accordance with plans outlined in a certain preliminary report and plans submitted to various bodies, providing for a stadium seating from 75,000 to 100,000 (a copy of

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Two Accused of Trying to Steal Auto

George Hoffner, 15 years old, of 121 Hollywood street, and Joseph Ramsey, 18 years old, 214 North 16th street, were each held under \$400 bail today by Magistrate Watson on the charge of having Knips, a car of a gang of young men, mobile from in front of the Mercantile Club last Saturday. The police of the 10th and Oxford streets station say these boys are part of a gang of young men who have been stealing automobiles for joy-ride purposes and then abandoning them.

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DANGER OF GENERAL DYE WORKERS' STRIKE

Employees Walk Out to Help Uniform Scale Movement

A walkout, which may develop into a general strike among dyeworkers of this city, began today when employees of four dye concerns left their work and joined in the movement which aims to establish 30 cents an hour as a flat wage for dyeworkers as against the present variable wage scale, which averages 25 cents an hour. It is predicted that before the end of the day several hundred men will have joined the strike.

The plants in which the strike has been called are the Continental Dye Works, Mascher and Thompson streets; the Brehm & Stehle Dye Works, Trenton and Allegheny avenues; the plant of Walter E. Knips, of Hancock street below Berks, and that of D. F. Waters, 53 Wistar street, at the Brehm & Stehle plant 45 men and 5 boys, comprising practically the whole force of the concern, participated in the walkout. At the other factory the men are leaving as they finish the "lots" upon which they are working, and before nightfall the majority of the workers will have joined the strike, it is said.

The strike was called at 1 o'clock this morning by Arthur McDonnell, president of the Dyers and Mercantiles Union, after a meeting at headquarters, B street, and Kensington avenue. Not wishing to call a general strike unless the step should prove necessary to their ends, the union appointed committees to present the demands of the workers to the owners of each of the four concerns mentioned above. This was done, and when the demands were not immediately complied with the walkouts were ordered.

The steel cars had been left on the siding by another freight train. In addition to loose brakes, it is thought the switch became unlocked, allowing the cars on the siding to roll down an incline into the main track.

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QUICK NEWS

MRS. FARWELL RELEASED BY BULGARS

ATHENS, Feb. 16.—Mrs. Walter Farwell, of Chicago, and Doctor Forbes, Boston physician, engaged in Red Cross work in Serbia, have been released by the Bulgarian authorities at Monastir after three months' detention. United States Consul Kehl at Salonica was notified by Bulgarian authorities today that the two Americans are now en route to Sofia.

BRITISH AIR DEFENSES NOW UNDER WAR OFFICE CONTROL

LONDON, Feb. 16.—Announcement was made in Parliament today that the air defenses of England have been transferred to the control of the War Office. Hitherto they have been under the jurisdiction of the Admiralty.

M. P. INTERPELLATES ON GERMAN NAVAL ACTIVITY

LONDON, Feb. 16.—A demand for information relative to the destruction of the British steamship Clan MacTavish by the German commerce-raider Moewe and the capture of the Appam is put up to the Foreign Office by a Parliamentary paper filed by L. Ginnell, an Irish Nationalist member of Commons. Sir Edward Grey, the Foreign Minister, is also asked if the full text of the Admiralty messages sent to the Lusitania on her last voyage was communicated to Washington.

SWEDEN TO PAY \$6,250,000 FOR PREPAREDNESS

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 16.—The Swedish Government has decided to ask Parliament for \$6,250,000 to defray the cost of maintaining neutrality defenses, says a dispatch from Stockholm.

BRITAIN'S FOOD COST ADVANCED 47 PER CENT.

LONDON, Feb. 16.—Since the war began the price of food in the United Kingdom has increased 47 per cent, according to statistics issued by the Board of Trade today. However, this is less than the increase in Berlin and Vienna. According to the figures, food has advanced 83 per cent in price in the German capital and 112 per cent in the Austrian capital.

COURT RULES AGAINST SUFFRAGISTS

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Feb. 16.—The Supreme Court today decided that women have no right to vote for national delegates or committeemen of political parties.

DUTCH LINER STRIKES MINE; BADLY DAMAGED

LONDON, Feb. 16.—The Dutch liner Bandoeng is reported to have struck a mine in the English Channel last night. A dispatch to Lloyds says that the steamship is badly damaged and that five tugs are assisting her. The Bandoeng, a vessel of 5851 tons, sailed from Batavia on December 31 for Rotterdam. Reports of the sinking of the steamship Tergeesta were confirmed today, when 25 members of the vessel's crew were landed.

BULGARS BAR U. S. RED CROSS AID TO SERBS

LONDON, Feb. 16.—Bulgaria is carrying out a policy of sweeping out the natives from Serbian Macedonia completely to Bulgarianize the occupied territory. For this reason the Bulgarian authorities refused to allow the American Red Cross to carry out relief work in that section, according to Richard Schellens, an American, of Croton, Conn. Mr. Schellens has been serving with Lady Paget's contingent. Mr. Schellens, who has just arrived in London from Uskup, brought copies of the correspondence between Director Edward Stuart, of the American Red Cross party, and head officials of the Bulgarian Red Cross.

AMERICANS MAY LOSE MILLIONS ON SEIZED BONDS

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—Although some of the banking houses in the financial district are beginning to receive, after a delay of from two to three weeks, letters and securities directed to them from Holland and other European countries, which were sent on the steamers Noordam and Rotterdam, from which the British Government took the mails for investigation, there is a large possibility that many of these securities will never find their way to the persons to whom they were consigned, and that the loss will mount up into the millions. In many cases securities have been extracted from the packages, so that incomplete consignments are being received. Many of the stocks and bonds withheld bear German stamps and will be retained by England for adjudication in a prize court, if not seized as coming from enemy origin. It is not improbable that a protest to Washington may be made.

INDIA MUTINY PLOT REVEALED IN COURT

SHANGHAI, Feb. 16.—Plans for a wholesale uprising against the British authorities in India were divulged in a veiled manner in the English Supreme Court when Simond Hay Abbas and his son, Oswald Abbas, naturalized British subjects, received prison sentences for illegal traffic in arms in violation of the British defense of the realm act. The evidence showed that the father, assisted by his son, engaged in selling to the armies of Great Britain 15,000 rifles, 1000 revolvers and about 1,500,000 rounds of ammunition, the recipients of which intended to deliver them in India, Ceylon and the Straits Settlements with a view to their use in rebellion against the British Government.

GERMANY TO BLOCK ENTRANCE TO BALTIC

LONDON, Feb. 16.—The Stockholm correspondent of Reuter's Telegram Company states that the Swedish Foreign Office has received the following communication from the German Minister: "In a short time shipping obstructions and mines will be laid out in different places outside of Swedish Sea territory between 55.18 and 55.26 north latitude and 12.42 and 13 eastern longitude. As soon as further communications are directed directions to shipping will be published."

CANADA ASKED TO VOTE \$250,000,000 WAR CREDIT

OTTAWA, Ont., Feb. 16.—Sanction for an additional war appropriation of \$250,000,000 and other measures for raising money for the needs of the Dominion's military forces will be asked by the Canadian Government at the present session of Parliament. These financial necessities were announced before the House of Commons by Sir Thomas White, Minister of Finance, in his annual budget speech. Opposition is precluded by the promise of the Liberals to accept all Government war measures. A new war tax measure, which in all probability will bring in additional revenue of about \$25,000,000 or \$30,000,000, was proposed by Sir Thomas. The measure would tax applying, oils, the profits of munitions factories and all incorporated companies carrying on business in Canada.

KING GEORGE TO GRANT AUDIENCE TO COL. HOUSE

LONDON, Feb. 16.—Colonel E. M. House is to have an audience with King George at Buckingham Palace. President Wilson's envoy has received an invitation from the King's secretary and will make the visit on Friday of this week. The colonel visited the King last summer after he had been in Berlin. Mr. Wilson's confidant has been active this week in secret talks with Cabinet officials and other prominent Britons, but he is as mum as usual regarding this.

LOYD-GEORGE'S CRITIC FORCED TO RETRACT

LONDON, Feb. 16.—Thomas Gibson Bowles in his speech Monday attacking the Government's alleged lukewarm blockade policy, referred to David Lloyd-George, the Minister of Munitions, by saying: "Mr. Lloyd-George, perorator about silver bullets for the enemy and provides golden bullets for his friends." Mr. Lloyd-George wrote to Mr. Bowles, asking him: "Will you be good enough to provide me with a list of the friends I have provided golden bullets for? As your remarks will probably have wide publicity, I should like to have your answer at once." Mr. Bowles replied by withdrawing his remarks, as he said they were liable to be misconstrued.

FRANCE TO SPEND \$15,736,000 A DAY FOR WAR

PARIS, Feb. 16.—An appropriation of 7,817,000,000 francs (\$1,582,400,000) for the second quarter of 1916 is provided in a bill introduced in the Chamber of Deputies today by Mr. Alexandre Ribot, Minister of Finance. Of the amount, all except 567,000,000 francs (\$117,400,000) is for military purposes. According to the figures, France expects to spend daily for war purposes during April, May and June a sum of money which in normal times would be equivalent to \$15,736,000. It is estimated that in the last quarter of 1915 the expenditures of the French Government probably were in excess of \$12,000,000 a day.